Minister that the possibilities of rehabilitation of these companies will be considered in the first instance.

Clearance for Gas Cracker project in Assam

*47. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has given necessary clearance for the proposed Gas Cracker Project to be set up in Assam ; and

(b) if so, what amount of money has been sanctioned for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Assam State Industrial Development Corporation were issued a letter of intent No. LI : 59(91) dated 25-1-1991 for a gas based cracker complex with 300,000 TPA ethylene capacity. Since the project is proposed to be implemented in the joint sector (ASIDC are looking for possible collaborators), there is no need for clearance from the Ministry of Finance. The project authorities are required to finalise detailed feasibility report for the project and then approach the financial institutions and other sources for arranging funds.

Sale of Mirage-2000 Fighter Planes to Pakistan by France

*48. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is acquiring a large number of Mirage-2000 fighter planes from France ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of Government on such deals ;

(c) to what extent Pakistan's air striking power would have an edge-over India's air power as a result thereof ; and

(d) what preventive steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Government is aware that discussion on the possible supply of 2 Squadrons of Mirage-2000 took place during Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to France in January, 1992. It is gathered that no agreement has been concluded so far. If acquired, these aircraft would enhance the multi-role capability of Pakistan's Air Force. Government is keeping a watch on developments in this regard and will take appropriate steps to ensure India's security. Our concerns about arms sales to Pakistan, disproportionate to the latter's legitimate defence needs, are known to the French Government.

लघु एककों संबंधी नीति

*49 सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 30 दिसम्बर, 1991 के स्टेट्समैन में "पालिसी फार स्माल यूनिट्स सून" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है,

(ख) क्या सरकार लघु तथा छोटे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए